

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 15 and 29 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A key information issuing device issuing key information to a key information retaining device, comprising:

an authentication module authenticating an issuer of the key information;

an output module outputting the key information to said key information retaining ~~unit~~device; and

a recording module recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining unit,

wherein the key information is issued in response to an indication of the authenticated issuer.

2. (Original) A key information issuing device according to claim 1, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a key information input module inputting the key information in contact with said key information issuing device, and

said output module includes a contact module outputting the key information in contact with said key information input module.

3. (Original) A key information issuing device according to claim 1, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting information from a recording medium, and

said output module includes a recording medium write module writing the information to said recording medium, and issues the key information through said recording medium.

4. (Original) A key information issuing device according to claim 1, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, and

said output module includes a near communication module incapable of performing the communications with said key information retaining device beyond a predetermined distance, and issues the key information through said near communication module.

5. (Original) A key information issuing device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a receiving module receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

a decoding module decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information.

6-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) A key information issuing device according to claim 1, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

15. (Currently amended) A key information managing method of managing key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining unit; and

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining unit.

16. (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes an input module inputting information in a contact manner, and

outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said input module.

17. (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting information from a recording medium, and

outputting the key information involves writing the information to said recording medium to issue the key information through said recording medium.

18. (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, and

outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said near communication module.

19. (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, further comprising:

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information.

20-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) A key information managing method according to claim 15, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

29. (Currently amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program executed by a computer to manage key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining unit; and

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining unit.

30. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless

operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes an input module inputting information in a contact manner, and

outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said input module.

31. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting information from a recording medium, and

outputting the key information involves writing the information to said recording medium to issue the key information through said recording medium.

32. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, and

outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said near communication module.

33. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, further comprising:

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and
decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information.

34-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 29, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.